

line 3, delete the entire line;  
 line 6, change "Here, the" to --The--;  
 line 9, change "signed" to --sign--;  
 line 10, change "ward" to --word--.

# IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-6 by rewriting same to read as follows.

--1. (Amended) A vector search method [in which] comprising the steps of calculating a difference error between a prediction vector and an input vector ~~[is calculated in such a way]~~ so that combinations of factors respectively multiplied by a plurality of basic vectors are changed according to the Gray code.

2. (Amended) [A] The vector search method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein an intermediate value  $G_{u+}$  obtained by calculation of a synthetic vector created according to a sign word  $u$  of the Gray code, is expressed by an intermediate value  $G_{i+}$  obtained by a calculation of a synthetic vector created according to an adjacent sign word  $i$  different from said sign word  $u$  only in a predetermined bit position  $v+$  and a change  $\Delta G_u$  calculated by utilizing the Gray code characteristic, and


said  $\Delta G_u$  is used to express a change  $\Delta G_{u'}$  between an intermediate value  $G_{i'}$  according to another sign word  $i'$  in said Gray code and an intermediate value  $G_{u'}$  according to an adjacent sign word  $u'$  different from said sign word  $i'$  only in a predetermined bit position  $v$ .

--3. (Amended) [A] The vector search method as claimed in

Claim ~~2~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein said prediction vector is created through a prediction synthesis filter by synthesizing said synthetic vector and a vector based on a past signal from a sound source [signal].

~~3~~<sup>3</sup>. (Amended) [A] The vector search method as claimed in Claim ~~2~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein said sign word  $u'$  in said Gray code differs from said sign word  $u$  only in one bit position  $w$ , excluding the predetermined bit position  $v$ , and

said change  $\Delta Gu'$  is expressed as a sum of said change  $\Delta Gu$  already obtained according to said sign word  $u$  of said Gray code and a difference between said change  $\Delta Gu$  and said change  $\Delta Gu'$ .

 ~~4~~<sup>4</sup>. (Amended) [A] The vector search method as claimed in Claim ~~2~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the [calculation to minimize] calculating of the difference error between said prediction vector and said input vector includes minimizing said difference error and is a calculation to determine [such] a synthetic vector from synthetic vectors created by synthesizing basic vectors for the sign word  $i$  of the Gray code that [makes maximum] maximizes an inner product with said input vector, and

said inner product is expressed[, ] by using two variables  $C_i$  and  $G_i$ , as  $[C_i^2/G_i]$   $C_i^2/G_i$ , whose value is made maximum.

~~5~~<sup>5</sup>. (Amended) [A] The vector search method as claimed in Claim ~~2~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the [calculation to minimize] calculating of the difference error between said prediction vector and said input vector includes minimizing said difference error and is a calculation to determine [such] a synthetic vector from synthetic vectors created by synthesizing basic vectors for the sign word  $i$  of the Gray code that [makes minimum an Euclid] minimizes a